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### So You Plan To Write a Book

This compact little guide is one of the most valuable books that has fallen to my lot to review in many a month. It is an informal but straight-from-the-shoulder discussion of the provinces, properties and responsibilities of authors, publishers and printers. From the would-be author to the seasoned veteran and the experienced editor, those who have to do with writing for publication will derive untold benefit from a careful study of its pages. Yet "study" is hardly the word, for not only is the book crammed with meat, but it is so delightfully written that the conclusion is almost inescapable that Mr. Gill missed his calling in being a publisher: he should have been an author.—*L. H. S.*

**The Author Publisher Printer Complex**, by Robert S. Gill. iv+76 pp. Baltimore, the Williams and Wilkins Co., 1940. \$1.00.

### Zoology of the Invertebrates

The introductory volume of the first American treatise on invertebrate zoology has just appeared. Doctor Hyman has proposed to write a series of several volumes and the first one is concerned with Protozoa, Mesozoa, Porifera, Cnidaria, and Ctenophora. Hyman's treatise is unusual, when compared to other works of its range, in that it is being written by one individual. The author has relied heavily on the literature and in this connection it is gratifying to see that the literature of all countries has been consulted with care and recent reports are represented. However, she herself has published well known researches on two of the phyla and has made original observations on two others and writes, therefore, with the experience of first-hand information. The large variety of species considered in detail (the "type" method is not used) covers the variations within each phylum and necessitates a well planned presentation of the numerous facts so as to avoid confusion and repetition. The morphological phase of zoology is particularly evident in more than 1,600 good illustrations, and animals as organized living units are well represented by abundant information on their embryology, physiology, ecology, and life histories. An excellent index enables one to locate subjects readily. There are three chapters, in addition to the five which treat the phyla named above, which deal with Protoplasm, the Cell, and the Organism; Classification; and Introduction to the Lower Metazoa. These chapters are valuable in abundance of factual material. Throughout her book and especially here, the author thoroughly discusses and carefully evaluates zoological theories, many of which have become confused with facts. The precise style of writing, freshness and completeness of material, and logical handling of doubtful and theoretical topics, all indicate that the volume will serve admirably for a textbook and for reference. It is not hazardous to predict that the usefulness of this book will be enormous.—*Carl Venard.*

**The Invertebrates—Protozoa through Ctenophora**, by Libbie Henrietta Hyman. ix+726 pp. 221 figs. New York, the McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1940. \$5.50.

### Van Nostrand's Scientific Encyclopedia

This comprehensive compilation of scientific information has as its objective the coverage of fundamental and technical principles in the following twelve fields: Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Engineering, Astronomy, Medicine, Mineralogy, Aeronautics, Navigation, Geology, Zoology and Botany. It is clearly and concisely written. The subject matter included shows evidence of having been carefully selected and is well illustrated by a large number of diagrams and photographs. By way of less favorable criticism it seems unfortunate that in the table on page 242 the molecular volume is given as 22.2 liters whereas the generally accepted value is 22.4 liters; also on page 1090 the use of the admittedly imperfect analogy of an inflated rubber balloon in the discussion of Surface Tension might well be omitted in the interest of clarity and accuracy. On pages 452-3 under Feedwater Treatment the technical water items are good but suffer somewhat by the absence of a discussion of the modern anion exchange reactions. In this section near the bottom of page 453 the statement, "Foaming results also from the saponification of the boiler water . . .", makes a rather curious use of the phrase "saponification of water," inasmuch as water is not saponified. Further, on page 1127 under the discussion of "Three-Phase Equilibrium" . . . (See *Sublimation*) . . . should read *Sublimation*. Generally, however, as one uses this Encyclopedia he is favorably impressed by its relative freedom from error and by its up-to-date character. It will undoubtedly find its greatest value, not as a supplementary source of information for the specialist in a given field, but rather as a ready and convenient reference for him in other and less familiar fields. The book is attractively and durably bound, printed clearly on good stock and should stand up well under a great deal of use. The authors of this work have accomplished their main objectives in a very satisfactory manner and the book should prove to be a valuable addition to scientific literature.—*Wesley G. France.*

**Van Nostrand's Scientific Encyclopedia.** 1234 pp. New York, D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc. 1938. \$10.00.